

Here again one might try to perform a finite number of “experiments” and obtain a class or sample of possible genealogies. These experiments will of course be performed not with any physical apparatus, but theoretically. If we assume that the probability of each possible event is given, we can then play a great number of games of chance, with chances corresponding to the assumed probability distributions. In this fashion one can study empirically the asymptotic properties of powers of matrices with positive coefficients, interpreted as transition probabilities.